

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 H-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /057 W

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P 231105Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8273

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PK

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI

REF: (A) DEC 77 ISLAMABAD 12019, (B) ISLAMABAD 0493,
(C) STATE 182960, (D) ISLAMABAD 6551, (E) STATE 290372

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT RECORD OF ANY DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN MARTIN ENNALS AND EMBOFFS OR OFFICER OF KARACHI CONGEN. ALL MENTIONS OF AI REACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN REFS A AND B, AS WELL AS TEXT SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT IN REF E, ARE IDENTIFIED AS COMING FROM PRESS REPORTS.

2. EMBASSY'S LATEST HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT (REF D) IS BEST OVERALL ANALYSIS POSSIBLE BASED ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AMCONGENS LAHORE AND KARACHI AS WELL AS EMBASSY RESEARCH. WHILE IT IS TRUE RIGHT TO COUNSEL NOT GUARANTEED IN MILITARY TRIBUNALS, THERE IS A MEASURABLE DISMANTLING OF SUCH COURTS IN FAVOR OF CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES AS REPORTED REF D. WE ARE AWARE OF NO RECENT MILITARY TRIBUNAL PROSECUTIONS OF STRICTLY CIVILIAN POLITICAL DEFENDANTS AND IT IS OUR IMPRESSION "MOST" CASES ARE HANDLED BY CIVILIAN COURTS.

3. THRE HAVE BEEN REARRESTS OF SOME JOURNALISTS

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INVOLVED IN HUNGER STRIKES, ETC., WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL. THE GENERAL OPINION OF JOURNALIST QUERIED IN PAST FEW WEEKS, HOWEVER, IS THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN MEDIA SURPRISINGLY GREAT AND CERTAINLY BETTER THAN UNDER BHUTTO REGIME. PRESENT ARRESTS ARE OF SMALL RADICAL ELEMENT WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY IN MEDIA GENERALLY. THIS DOES NOT EXCUSE ACTIONS BY

MLA BUT SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH OVERALL TREND.

4. COPY OF AI SHORT REPORT OF THE JANUARY 1978 MISSION TO PAKISTAN WAS HAND CARRIED TO EMBASSY BY UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S PARTY.(EMBASSY NOW STUDYING REPORT AND WILL SUBMIT COMMENTS.

5. ANOTHER SUGGESTION DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONSIDER IS DEBRIEFING RAMSEY CLARK WHO RECENTLY VISITED PAKISTAN AS PRIVATE CITIZEN WITH JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, LEGAL PROFESSION AND WITH YOUTH GROUP FOR THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS SITUATION. CLARK CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BEFORE MEETINGS BUT DID NOT SEE ANY OFFICIAL AMERICANS BEFORE DEPARTURE. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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